

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 IO-12 OPR-02 SY-07 M-03 A-01

OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /150 W
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R 111200 Z APR 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

T/USMISSION USUN 2006

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1092

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF IS US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI ATTACK ON BEIRUT

1. NEWS OF AND COMMENTARY ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON BEIRUT BLANKET
CAIRO PRESS APRIL 11, AND IS ALSO SUBJECT OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE
IN ALL RADIO NEWS PROGRAMS. THREE CAIRO ARABIC DAILIES REPORT
STORIES AS FOLLOWS:

(A) AHRAH : GENERALLY STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTING OF
EVENTS , GIVING BLOW BY BLOW DESCRIPTION OF ISRAELI PENETRATION
OF BEIRUT AND GUNNING DOWN OF ABU YOUSSEF AND COLLEAGUES.
PAPER MAKES MENTION OF PALESTINIAN CLAIMS THAT CIA AND US
EMBASSY IN BEIRUT WERE INVOLVED IN INCIDENT, BUT THIS
IS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING AND IS GIVEN NO EMPHASIS.

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MANAGING EDITOR AL- GAMMAL HAS EDITORIAL STATING THAT ISRAELI RAID MAKES IT CLEARER THAT THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR WAR, AND THAT FORCE IS ONLY METHOD TO DETER ISRAEL. GAMMAL STATES THAT ISRAEL STRIKES AT ALL ARABS, NOT SIMPLY ONE ARAB COUNTRY; AND US AID HELPS HER TO DO THIS. GAMMAL CONCLUDES THAT ALL ARABS SHOULD TAKE ACTION, MILITARILY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY.

(B) AKHBAR' S APPROACH IS SOMEWHAT MORE SPECTACULAR, AND GIVES MORE PLAY TO PALESTINIAN CLAIMS OF CIA AND AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT INVOLVEMENT IN AFFAIR. (EMBASSY BEIRUT' S DENIAL APPEARS IN CAIRO ENGLISH, BUT NOT ARABIC, PRESS). MUSA SABRI WRITES POEM OF EULOGY TO PALESTINIAN MARTYRS. AKHBAR' S EDITORIAL NOTES FOLLOWING: BEIRUT OPERATION WAS IN PREPARATION FOR LONG TIME; ISRAEL USED " FOREIGN AGENTS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES" WHO ARRIVED IN BEIRUT TO HIRE CARS AND STUDY TERRAIN; ISRAELIS DEPENDED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY CIA. EDITORIAL STATES THAT, ACCORDING TO PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, " SOME ISRAELI ASSAILANTS TOOK REFUGE IN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT." AKHBAR ALLEGES THAT ISRAELI RAID WAS INTENDED TO DASH ARAB SELF- CONFIDENCE; BUT ARABS WILL ENTER BATTLE FULLY CONFIDENT OF VICTORY.

(C) GUMHURIYYA HAS MOST SPECTACULAR APPROACH OF ALL, BANNER HEADLINES: " AMERICA PARTICIPATES IN ISRAELI AGGRESSION." FIRST PART OF LEAD ARTICLE TAKES CAREFUL NOTE THAT ISRAELIS LANDED ON LEBANESE SHORES " WHICH US MARINES USED IN THEIR AGGRESSION IN LEBANON IN 1958. THEY THEN BOARDED SIX MERCEDES AUTOMOBILES WHICH THE US CIA, IN COOPERATION WITH ELEMENTS OF WEST GERMANY, BRITAIN AND BELGIUM, HAD HIRED THREE DAYS BEFORE." GUMHURIYYA GIVES THIS AS FACT, WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION TO PALESTINIAN OR OTHER SOURCES. GUMHURIYYA ALSO ALLEGES THAT ISRAELI ATTACKERS ARE STILL HIDING IN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT.

2. EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT. PRESS CONTAINS STATEMENT ISSUED BY " OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN", STATING THAT EGYPT HAS FOLLOWED " WITH MUCH CONCERN" NEWS OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION ON BEIRUT AND OTHER AREA IN LEBANON. STATEMENT CONTINUED THAT EGYPT WILL HASTEN TO DENOUNCE ISRAEL' S POLICY OF AGGRESSION, " BASED ON ARROGANCE AND INTRANSIGENCE, AND ESCALATED BY RESOURCES SUPPLIES TO IT BY USA." STATEMENT
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CONTINUES THAT PRELIMINARY INFORMATION INDICATES ISRAELI

AGGRESSION HAD BEEN LONG PREMEDITATED, AND THAT ISRAEL SOUGHT TO IMPOSE ITSELF BY MILITARY FORCE, IN ATTEMPT TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF CONTROL OF THE AREA. STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT PALESTINIAN DETERMINATION WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY MOST RECENT AGGRESSION; AND AGGRESSION WILL ADD TO STEADFASTNESS OF EGYPT, FRONT- LINE COUNTRIES AND ARAB STATES IN GENERAL IN SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE IN STRUGGLE TO REGAIN ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHTS.

3. ANOTHER SIGN OF EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER SITUATION IS PRESS REPORTING OF DELEGATION BY SADAT OF HASSAN SABRI EL- KHOLY TO FLY TO BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS, TO CONVEY TO PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE EGYPT' S STAND ON ISRAELI RAIDS. ARAB LEAGUE HAS ALSO BEEN MOBILIZED TO CONVEY MESSAGES CONCERNING " GRAVITY" OF ISRAELI ATTACK, ESPECIALLY TO UN. IN POSSIBLY RELATED DEVELOPMENT, PRESS NOTES SADAT WILL HOLD " IMPORTANT MEETING" WITH VICE PRESIDENTS SHAFEI AND FAWZI; DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HATEM, HEGAZI AND KAMEL; HAFEZ ISMAIL AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS ABDALLAH.

4. PRESS ANNOUNCES THAT SYMBOLIC FUNERAL WILL BE HELD IN MEMORY OF MARTYRS KILLED IN BEIRUT IN TAHRIR SQUARE ON THURSDAY, APRIL 12.

5. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT SAWT AL- ARAB ON EVENING APRIL 10 URGENTLY BEGAN BROADCASTING OPERATIONAL MESSAGES FOR PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. REASON GIVEN IS THAT ISRAELIS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN BEIRUT RAID GIVING NAMES OF FEDAYEEN SUPPORTERS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THAT MESSAGES ARE BEING PASSED TO WARN THEM OF THEIR DANGER. WE ARE TOLD THAT THIS IS FIRST TIME SAWT AL- ARAB, AS DISTINCT FROM VOICE OF PALESTINE OR OTHER PALESTINIAN- LEASED BROADCASTS, HAS TRANSMITTED SUCH OPERATIONAL MESSAGES.

6. COMMENT: CONSIDERING EVENT, OFFICIAL GOE REACTION IS MILD. SPOKESMAN' S STATEMENT REFERS TO " RESOURCES SUPPLIED (TO ISRAEL) BY USA " ONLY WITHIN CONTEXT OF BROADER DENUNCIATION OF ISRAELI RAID. MAIN THRUST OF STATEMENT IS GOE' S " CONCERN" OVER INCIDENT. AHRAH STUDIOUSLY AVOIDS DIRECT LINKAGE, MADE IN GAUDIER COVERAGE OF AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA, OF USG WITH BEIRUT EVENTS. NEVERTHELESS, ALLEGATIONS OF U. S. COMPLICITY WHICH APPEAR IN AKHBAR AND

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GUMHURIYYA MAY INTENSIFY PUBLIC HOSTILITY TO US IN EGYPT. THIS MAY FIND SOME EXPRESSION AT TIME OF TOMORROW' S FUNERAL FOR " MARTYRS" OF RAID, TO BE HELD AT OMAR MAKRAM MOSQUE, WITHIN 100 YARDS OF USINT.

7. WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT GOE SECURITY FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO
CONTAIN ANY DEMONSTRATION, WE ARE ADOPTING APPROPRIATE SECURITY
PRECAUTIONS.
GREENE

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